

**Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
Environmental Education Network  
Underserved and Underrepresented Populations Working Group**

**Conference Call 03/08/07**

**Work Group Attendees:**

Facilitator: Lee Yokel, GOMA Environmental Education Coordinator; lyokel@disl.org  
Bryan Fluech, FL Sea Grant; fluech@ufl.edu

Jennifer Buchanan, Grand Bay NERR; jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov

Becky Boudreaux, NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center, Becky.Boudreaux@noaa.gov

Greg Ira, FL Department of Environmental Protection; greg.ira@dep.state.fl.us

Richard Gonzales, Gulf of Mexico Foundation; [richard@gulfmex.org](mailto:richard@gulfmex.org)

Richard Makopondo, PhD, Dept. of Tourism, Rec., & Sport Management., Univ. of Florida, rmakopondo@hnp.ufl.edu

Tara Shultz, Texas State Aquarium; tschultz@txstateaq.org

Susan Testroet-Bergeron with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program has renounced her leadership within this Working Group due to staffing and funding changes. Time ran out for this topic in the call, but the group will be seeking another lead for this Working Group.

**Current Homework**

All members to review draft definition and survey as amended from this conference call. Comments due to Lee Yokel by March 26, 2007.

All members to find key faith-based community leaders for partnership list. Send those to Lee Yokel by March 26, 2007. Make sure contacts include email addresses.

Tara Shultz                      Boys and Girls Clubs

Richard Makopondo      National Organization promoting environmental education  
in faith-based initiatives

**Acronyms**

GOMA = Gulf of Mexico Alliance

UUP = Underserved and Underrepresented Populations

**General Notes**

**Underserved and Underrepresented Definitions**

A draft definition was presented to the group and reviewed. Minor changes were made to clarify “environmental education” refers to the natural environment. Examples would be included as a footnote to the diversity definition. Lee Yokel would make those changes and then submit the definition back out to the UUP Working Group as well as the Steering Committee for final comments.

## **Survey**

The bulk of the conference call addressed the draft survey in progress. Reorganization of questions, additions, and number of corrections and changes were made to the existing draft. Lee Yokel will make the changes received via email as well as discussed in the call then resubmit the draft to the group. After this last review, the survey will be sent to another entity for an analytical review then put into survey monkey for testing and dissemination.

In addition to the actual questions, there will be statements added to the questionnaire that will tell the participant:

- Who we are
- Why we are doing this survey
- What is our ultimate goal

The group also discussed adding links at the end of the survey to pertinent census based information. Some demographic information in the survey is illegal to collect in certain forms and in certain states. Therefore, collection of this information will be researched for appropriateness or deleted all together.

## **How Diverse is the GOMA Partnership**

The list of organizations to target with the survey continues to grow. Key leaders in faith-based organizations were still needed.

## **New Lead**

As mentioned at the beginning of the notes, Lead Replacement for Susan Testroet-Bergeron is needed. There will be a call for a volunteer or appointment to step up to this Working Group.

## **Other Comments**

Lee Yokel will be seeking a dedicated individual to help with survey dissemination, analysis, and report writing.

## **Call Schedule**

Next Call scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2007

**Goal – “Develop and host a pilot program to engage underrepresented and underserved communities in Gulf stewardship activities related to the Alliance strategic priorities.”**